



July, 2004

Dear MSU Extension Master Gardeners:

Your efforts around Kent County are blooming!!! Millennium Park has a beautifully planted entryway, Junior Master Gardeners are diggin' life and the hotline is certainly hot!

Gordon has enclosed information about the upcoming "*Stuck on Gardening*" Garden Tour Saturday & Sunday, July 17 & 18. Get tickets for you and your friends as soon as you can and please pray for good weather! They make great gifts too.

AUCTION 2004

It's not too early to start thinking about this year's auction. Last year, we had record attendance and raised a significant amount of money for the Grand Ideas Garden. All in all, it was a lot of fun. So . . . be thinking about potential donors, such as tool suppliers, garden centers and, of course - don't be shy with your own talents either. Last year, we saw the most beautiful ceramic birdbaths, troughs, wreaths and quilts. How about a few hours of labor? I would bid on that! Do any of you make your own private label "Gardener's Wine"? (Maybe that wouldn't be such a good idea!) Auction 2004 is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21.

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL

During these tight budget times, many schools have been forced to dramatically reduce or even zero out their supply budgets. Teachers are often spending their own money so students have the very basics. MSU Extension has adopted Dickenson and Hall Elementary Schools and is doing a supply drive now through the 1st week of August. If your summer shopping trips find you in a "Back to School" sale aisle, please consider picking up extra stuff like pencils, spiral notebooks, loose leaf paper, glue sticks and library books. Campbell's Soup labels and box tops are also appreciated. The drop off site is here at the office.

GRAND IDEA GARDEN UPDATE

Just so you know, we are making progress on fund raising for the Grand Ideas Garden. I am pleased that so many of you have sent in money for bricks, benches and trees! I was just made aware that MSU Master Gardeners now can purchase an 8" x 8" square brick that has the logo on it for \$100.00. This was not previously listed in the brochure, but is being made available to MSU Master Gardeners only.

The idea of trying to raise money during our current economic picture is somewhat daunting. I was initially concerned, but together with your donations, our kick-off "*Stuck on Gardening*" Conference and the *Endless Summer* plant sale, we have raised around \$12,000. Not too bad - considering we can comfortably get started when we hit \$30,000!

Thanks for all your assistance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Finneran".

Rebecca Finneran
Extension Horticulture Educator



Kent County Master Gardeners

“Green Pages”

July/August
2004

Dates to put on your refrigerator/calendar!

- July 17-18—Jr. Master Gardener “Garden Tour”
- August 6—Garden Day at MSU
- August 19—1st “Fall” MG Class begins
- September 21—Annual Plant Auction
- September 28—Gardening With Perennials begins
- October 6—”Goodwill Plant/Seed Exchange”

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Such a busy time of year. Such a wonderful time of year. I hope you are all enjoying this current respite from Winter. It seems that we wait for months to get our hands in the dirt, it’s here, and then it’s gone. The cycle seems to continue without our permission and gets increasingly short as life goes on. What a joy, though, to share our summer experiences. I know you are all very busy, so please keep track of what you do and be ready to share it for our other MSU Master Gardener readers beginning in August.

I’m going to attempt to visit all (ok, some) of our sites and take pictures this summer, so we’ll have a record to share. I’ll be calling some of you to find out when you’re actually in your “digs.” Many of you work so hard and report your hours faithfully, but the rest of us have no idea what you have accomplished. We’ll work at changing that. So..., watch out!, I’m liable to appear with a lens any day now.

Thanks to all of you who have volunteered for the Jr. MG Tour on the 17th and 18th of July. This is a critical time to support the Extension (Extension Hours) and continue our wonderful MSU Jr. Master Gardener program. Please tell all of your friends about the tour! We’d love to have people turn out in “droves.”

All of you should have received a personal report from me on your volunteer and educational hours. Of course, they are not all accurate, so please inform me of any discrepancies. We trust you implicitly, so just tell us what your records are and we’ll follow your advice. In that regard, please remember that this re-certification year ends on December 31st. That’s how long you have to re-certify for the year **2004!!** We now must contribute 15 volunteer hours and 5 educational hours to re-certify.

Growingly Yours,
Gordon Griffin, MSU Master Gardener Coordinator—Kent County

2004 KENT MSU EXTENSION Master Gardener Garden Tour Tickets: \$10 for adults

*Tickets available at Kent MSU Extension, 775 Ball Ave., N.E., 336-3265, or at any tour site listed below
Hours: Saturday, 07/17/04, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 07/18/04, 12:00 noon – 6:00 p.m.*



#1 743 W. Woodmeade Ct. S.E., Grand Rapids

This Tour site features perennials, a butterfly garden, a frog pond, ornamental trees and shrubs, and rusty metal sculptures placed throughout the gardens.

Directions: Located west off Spaulding Ave between Fulton St (M-21) & Cascade Rd. Turn west on West Woodmeade to the 5th house on the left.

#2 3858 Kalamazoo Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids

The gardens on this four-acre property allow the hostess to give away hundreds of bouquets every year. But there are so many flowers left you would never know any were missing! You will also find a pond, vegetables, ornamental grasses, and flowering shrubs.

Directions: Located south of 36th St. on the east side of the road. Look for the gates with pillars at the entrance.

#3 7701 Kalamazoo Ave. S.E., Byron Center

This school yard garden (Cross Creek Charter) began through the efforts of a Master Gardener whose children attend the school. This project involves the 2nd grade students and has a different theme from year to year. Come see what the students have planned for this year's garden.

Directions: Located on the corner of 76th Street and Kalamazoo Ave.

#4 10385 Wilson Ave. SW, Byron Center

At this Tour site you will find a small organic farming operation complete with free-range heirloom chickens and turkeys, goats, herb garden (used for culinary and medicinal purposes), bee hives from which organic honey is harvested, and heirloom fruits and vegetables. Bring the whole family and enjoy a day in the country!

Directions: Take 131 to the 100th Street exit. Proceed west on 100th to Wilson Ave. Turn south on Wilson to the farm at the corner of Wilson & 104th Ave.

#5 3525 Bayberry Dr. N.W., Grand Rapids

Unique to this Tour site is a root & wine cellar built into a hill side. Other features include gates & fences, patios, hot beds, a raised-bed salad garden and a grape arbor with red, white, & blue Concord grapes and a picnic area underneath the arbor.

Directions: From West River Dr., turn west on Greenridge Dr. (about half way between Delta Plex & 5/3 Ball Park). Turn North on Bayberry to house.

#6 157 Lantern Dr. N.W., Comstock Park

The theme here is gardening with minimal space by creative use of containers. The driveway to this home is lined with container gardens! You will also find fresh produce and water gardens. This site proves that "good things come in small packages."

Directions: Take 131 to the West River Dr exit. Go south to Lamoreaux Dr and turn west. Take Lamoreaux to Stony Creek, north on Stony Creek to Lantern and west on Lantern to home.

#7 13330 – 40th St., Marne

Here you will find a peaceful and private setting with woods, ravine, and a stream. You will also enjoy a butterfly garden, hummingbird garden, and some "quirky" plants.

Directions: Take I-96 west to the 48th Ave (Lamont) exit. Take 48th south to Leonard. Go east on Leonard to 40th. Turn left on 40th and park on the second 90-degree bend in the road. Enjoy the walk up the driveway to the house and main gardens.

#8 3335 House St., Rockford

This site has large country gardens, secluded areas and paths with privacy and natural ambience. You can explore xeriscape, shade, and vegetable gardens and see hardscapes such as a potting shed.

Directions: Off the East Beltline turn west on Rogue River and then immediately north on Kutts Hill. Go 1.0 miles to Childs Dale and turn west. Follow Childs Dale 1.3 miles, cross the bridge and go straight up House St. to the end (1/2 mile).

#9 13015 Crinnion, Cedar Springs

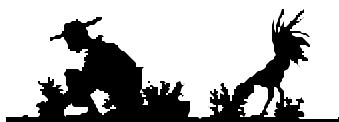
The gardens on this site occupy 2+ acres. Features include a rock garden, 200+ Hostas, and over 800 Daylilies. Plants are identified with permanent labels.

Directions: Take M-57 east toward Greenville to Ramsdell Rd. Go north on Ramsdell 1.5 miles to a sharp curve. Crinnion is a quarter mile beyond the curve and only goes north.

#10 1080 Whitewood Farms Ct. N.E., Grand Rapids

The Master Gardener who developed this site passed away in May following a short illness. Other Master Gardeners have maintained the gardens for the Tour. Here you will find a Civil War-era fence and gate, a New York blue-flagstone patio, and the centerpiece of the garden – a pond and waterfall system. You will see over 2,000 perennials most of them grown from seed.

Directions: Located east of the East Beltline off Crahen just south of Leonard. Turn east off of Crahen onto Whitewood Farms Dr., then north on Whitewood Farms Ct. to the house.



Garden Tour Volunteer Opportunities

There is still time to volunteer for the upcoming Kent MSUE Master Gardener Garden Tour. All time devoted to this worthwhile event count as Kent MSUE “**Extension**” hours. The following are areas where help is still needed:

Light Garden Prep Work: Some of the hosts/hostesses have requested help the week of the tour in preparing their gardens for our guests. Work would include light weeding, deadheading, and other prep activities.

Ticket Sales Opportunities: The following ticket sales shifts at Fruit Basket Flowerland locations still need volunteers.

- Wyoming** (28th & Clyde Park): Saturday, 07/03, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Friday, 07/09, 4:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, 07/10, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- Alpine:** Saturday, 07/03, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



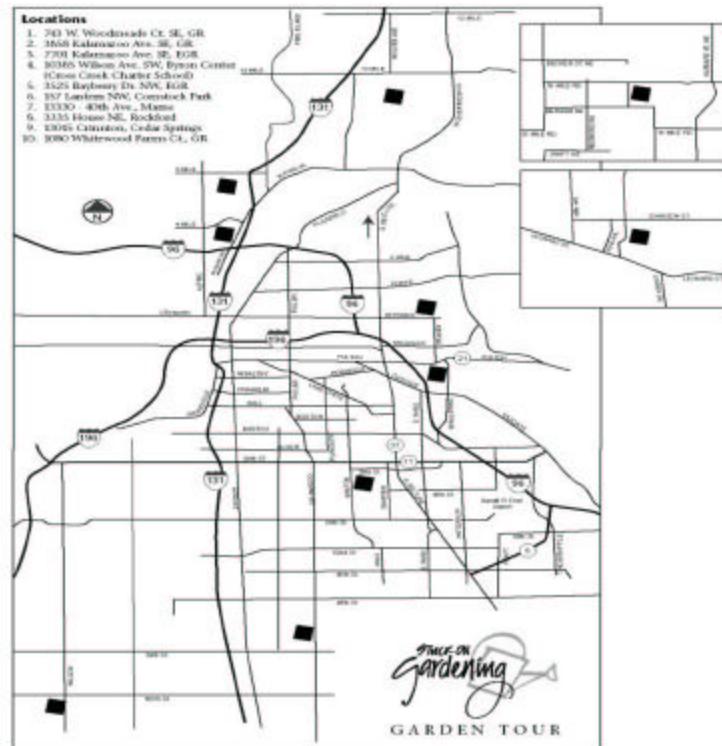
There are also limited openings for shifts on the tour days. If you are available for any of these opportunities listed, please call Judy Sink at 336-2544.

Gordon is coordinating the preparation work at John Helderop’s gardens. MG assistance will be needed there right up to the tour dates. If you can help in John’s beautiful gardens, please contact Gordon at 336-3283. Remember, if we all work together no one will be burned out from this worthwhile endeavor.

Thank you for your consideration of the above opportunities. Not only do you gain valuable volunteer hours, you also will be helping out the Junior Master Gardener Program! The kids will thank you for your efforts!!

Map to the Gardens

[Full page map available at Extension office—775 Ball NE]



We have signs for you to use indicating that your project is a “MSU Master Gardener Project.” Just stop in and get one! Let the world know and see what you do!



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION
VOLUNTEER PROJECT

Trip to MSU Gardens & Turf Center

Your wonderful R&R Committee (Recognition & Recreation) has planned a trip to the MSU Gardens and Turf Center.

Wednesday, July 28, 2004—Carpools will leave Grand Rapids at 9:00 a.m. and arrive at MSU at about 10:15 a.m.

Tour Time: 10:30—12:00—Includes the Children’s Garden, Rose Garden, Annual and Perennial Gardens with a Docent.

Lunch—12:00—1:15—on your own (Kellogg Center, etc.)

Turf Center Tour: We will meet at the Turf Center, south on Mt. Hope on Farm Lane
The tour will be with Dr. Art Cameron

Cost: \$23.00 (Depends on the number of people coming—
Cost is to cover the fee for Dr. Cameron.)



If you are interested, please call Shirley Miles at 243-7882. This is strictly a “fun” trip, being planned by your R&R Committee, not the Extension staff. Please let us know ASAP if you are coming.

Announcements



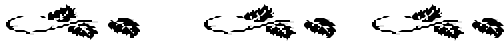
Summer Reading

Running out of books to read during the Summer?? Come visit our MSU Master Gardener “closet” and see what you might have been missing.

We have an overstock of some of your favorite gardening books—perfect to read on your vacation or to give as a gift to your mother-in-law when you visit her.

Stop in anytime!

Oh yes, we still have a great supply of “Stuck on Gardening” sweatshirts and the new MSU Master Gardener vests. Perfect for the nippy weather ahead.



Gardening (Volunteer Hours) Opportunities at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

MSU Master Gardeners are needed!

Summer Spruce-Up

July 13th, 14th, & 15th
(8-12 only)

Fall Clean-Up

September 7th, 8th, & 9th
(8-12 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.)

Please call Ian Warnock at 975-3173 if you are available to help. This is a great opportunity to earn those hours before the onset of Winter—what a horrible thought! [Certification year ends Dec. 31st, 2004.]



Goodwill Plant/Seed Exchange

OK, so we had a hard time naming it!

It hasn’t been planned yet, because it will be planned by our new 2004 Fall MSU Master Gardener class!

Wednesday, October 6th

Some of us have enjoyed plant or seed exchanges in the past, so this will be a time to satisfy that need to get “one more thing” before winter—and... to give something to someone else. It will probably be during the day and into early evening.

Wednesday, October 6th

So begin marking those special plants you want to share and saving those seeds of your favorite plant. No plant is “off limits”—except maybe Garlic Mustard. Some of your more mundane plants, just might be a treat for someone else.

When!? October 6th

Gardening Memories

One of you beautiful people handed me this, but did not indicate your name. So, whoever you are—"Thanks for the Memories."

All of us have stories to tell how we got started gardening, whether we began out of necessity to put food on the table or simply for the pure enjoyment of watching plants grow. I'm no different. I remember when I first started gardening. I would follow my grandfather around when he worked the 5-acre farm out in Byron Center. The home was built by his grandfather as his retirement home. Great grandfather had been one of the pioneers in the area. He served in the local government long ago.

My grandparents bought the farm while their children were young. They stayed there until they retired and decided to move north in to the woods of the Manistee National Forest. I remember that time while they were on the farm and I recall the sights and smells. Pa had a few apple trees up on the ridge and rows and rows of corn, tomatoes, beans, and squash, to name a few things.

There were grapevines on the fence dividing the property and grape juice was processed each fall. Everything that grew there on the farm was either frozen or canned. What they didn't grow they bought from farms in the area giving them a very full pantry. Behind the garage was a shed that was home for the Allis Chalmers tractor. It was also home to bees and I remember them chasing me. At one time Pa had a few hives of bees and I recall the bees finding their way into his protective clothes stinging him. He dashed through the corn rows screaming, flailing his arms and stripping off the bee filled suit. They took to buying their honey at the market thereafter.

They had two compost bins in the cellar full of worms and decomposing bits covered with shredded newspapers. I remember the smell. It was damp and smelled of sweet soil and tobacco juice from my grandfather's spittoon stationed on the floor.

Pa let me help plant the corn and beans. I'd ride along on the tractor while he would disc the fields. As I got older and could reach the peddles, he'd let me drive and change gears. This of course, was done well out of view of the kitchen window where my grandmother could see. She would have had a chicken fit if she knew.

Creating gardens at my own home reminds me of those times and makes me smile. My house had foundation plantings of Arborvitae that far exceeded my own. They were reluctant to leave, but sharp saws and my Dad's four-wheel drive truck persuaded them out. Sometimes in March there'd be flats of tomatoes under lights waiting for the right time to plant outside. There were always too many for me to use so I'd share with friends. I'd shop for ornamentals and search for good deals. Each weekend my neighbors would see me unloading a few more plants. My chocolate Lab would eye each one warily as he watched his expansive backyard diminish. Not to worry though, I had a nice doggie pool for him and he was a happy baby.

My only constraint was a small budget; the process has been accomplished in small steps. Although the longer I work at this I realize that regardless of budget the process has an infinite number of steps as there are always new techniques to implement, exciting new plants to try and an every changing micro climate to deal with.

I find gardening to be cathartic. It's a way to beautify the space we live in. Gardening provides food to eat. There have been friendships made over garden talk. There is so much to learn and even more to share. To think this all started years ago when I asked my grandpa, "Hey Pa where ya going?" "Crazy. You want to go along?" "Sure." and off we'd go to the garden.

I look forward to spending a lot of time out in my garden, much of that time working on one project or another. When the day is done and all the tools are put away, it's most enjoyable to just sit and take it all in.

Reporting Hours

Please remember that the Official Certification Year ends on December 31st, 2004. Don't wait until March to recertify—it will be too late. Remember, you are required to volunteer 15 hours and earn 5 education credits to remain an "Active" MSU Master Gardener. Forms are available in the diagnostic area here at the Extension Office, or we can mail you the forms. You should have received a current accounting of your hours. Please let us know if your records are different than ours. We will trust you and make the indicated changes.

Kent/MSU Extension
775 Ball Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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Future Dates:

MSU Jr. Master Gardener “Garden Tour”	July 17th & 18th
Carpool Trip to MSU Gardens & Turf Station	July 28th
Garden Day at MSU	August 6th
2004 MSU Master Gardener “Fall” Class begins	August 19th
Fall Plant Auction	September 21st
Gardening with Perennials begins	September 28th
Goodwill Plant/Seed Exchange	October 6th

Kent MSU Contacts—775 Ball N.E.—Grand Rapids, MI 49503

<u>Kent County Extension</u> <u>Website:</u> www.msue.msu.edu/kent Choose MSU Master Gardener Program—Kent or MSU	Gordon Griffin Kent/MSU Master Gardener Coordinator (616) 336-3283 griffing@msue.msu.edu	Judy Sink Kent/MSU Jr. Master Gardener Coordinator (616) 336-2544 sinkj@msue.msu.edu
<u>Master Gardener Website:</u> www. msue.msu.edu/mastergardener (Both websites contain our <u>monthly newsletters.</u>)	Sharon Globig Kent/MSU Lawn & Garden Hotline Coordinator (616) 336-7734 globigs@msue.msu.edu	[If you want to belong to our grow- ing number of MGs receiving the newsletter via e-mail, just contact Gordon.]
	<i><u>HOTLINE: 616-336-3881</u></i>	



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